

Sunday, December 8, 2019: Advent 2 – PEACE

*Creative Engagement Service*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4,6)*



SUNDAYS AT ST. PAUL’S

**REGULAR SERVICES**

* Weekly services held Sundays at 10:00AM
* Interface services - Art based services throughout the year
* Sermons available on our website

**SUNDAY PRAYER**

* Prayer for the service at 9:30AM in the Luke Room
* Individual Prayer in the Chapel during the Sunday service

**SERVING AT ST. PAUL’S**

* Join a Ministry Team (Sunday service team, music team, children’s ministry, Altar guild, or many others)
* Regular or One-Time Giving (cash, cheque, automatic debit, and credit options available)

 **LARGE PRINT MATERIALS** Large print Bibles and
 Books of Alternative
 Services (BAS) are availableat each Sanctuary door.

Page numbers will not be the same as those listed in the bulletin.

 **VISITING TODAY?**

 We want to get to know
 you! Please join us for

 in the Hall for coffee and

fellowship following the service. The greeters are also available to help if you have any questions.





**Assisted listening**

**is available. Please**

**ask a greeter**

**for assistance.**

CONNECT

**St. Paul’s CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**

**KIDS** Pre-School-Grade 2 in the hall / Grade 3-5 in the Matthew Room

Sunday School teaching is weekly during the 10:00AM service.

**St. Paul’s YOUTH MINISTRY**

**YOUTH** Youth Grades 6-12 meet weekly during the 10:00AM service.

Youth also meetbi-weekly for fun events and devotionals.

**St. Paul’s ADULT MINISTRY**

**ADULTS** St. Paul’s has a number of small groups where you can connect with others through Christ. If you are interested in joining a small
group or starting a small group of your own, please speak with Pat Stretch.

**Opening Song: *The Holly and the Ivy***

The Holly and the Ivy

When they are both full-grown

Of all the trees that are in the wood

The holly bears the crown

(*Chorus*) O the rising of the sun

And the running of the deer

The playing of the merry organ

Sweet singing in the choir

The holly bears a blossom

As white as Lily flower

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ

To be our dear Saviour (*To Chorus*)

The holly bears a berry

As red as any blood

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ

To do poor sinners good (*To Chorus*)

The holly bears a bark

As bitter as the gall

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ

For to redeem us all (*To Chorus*)

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: PEACE**

Reader 1: We began Advent last Sunday by lighting the first candle, the candle of Hope. We light it again today to remind us that Christ is coming to fulfill God’s promises.
***(The first two candles are lit.)***

Reader 2: Today we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah said, “Comfort, comfort my people” to a nation anxious about invasion and exile, as he foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace. Our world is still filled with violence and abuse, where families are torn apart by war and children are used as soldiers. Isaiah’s words continue to speak to us that Jesus will bring us to an everlasting peace.

Reader 1: Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn to give birth to Jesus, but we can heed John the Baptist’s command to make room in our hearts. Wherever there is war or mistrust between peoples, families, or our own hearts, God is present and leading us to imagine new ways of living in peace.

Reader 2: Christ is our only hope, and our peace is found through him. We light this candle to remind us of Jesus’ life-giving peace to all who trust in him. We light it in honor of those who live the Gospel truth that war does not make one great: the peace workers who risk much so that others may live free of fear.

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**All: We’re in trouble, Holy God. So many in the world do not know peace in their countries or in their hearts. We use weapons of steel and barbed words to wound one another. We seek balm for our restless hearts in things that only make us more wounded. Open our hearts to Jesus so we may have the peace of his holy presence and live it in our unpeaceful world. Save us from outside violence and inner turmoil. We need you. Come, peaceful God, come. Amen.**

**The Gathering of the Community**

Celebrant: *(BAS pg. 185)* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant:Almighty God,

**All:to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 269)* Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People:** **Amen**.

**Children’s Dismissal**

**The Reading of Scripture**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 (*The Message*)

*Reader:* A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stump,
    from his roots a budding Branch.
The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him,
    the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength,
    the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God.
Fear-of-God
    will be all his joy and delight.
He won’t judge by appearances,
    won’t decide on the basis of hearsay.
He’ll judge the needy by what is right,
    render decisions on earth’s poor with justice.
His words will bring everyone to awed attention.
    A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked.
Each morning he’ll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots,
    and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

The wolf will romp with the lamb,
    the leopard sleep with the kid.
Calf and lion will eat from the same trough,
    and a little child will tend them.
Cow and bear will graze the same pasture,
    their calves and cubs grow up together,
    and the lion eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens,
    the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent.
Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill
    on my holy mountain.
The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive,
    a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

On that day, Jesse’s Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm (or Canticle): Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (*The Message*)

*Reader:* Give the gift of wise rule to the king, O God,
    the gift of just rule to the crown prince.
May he judge your people rightly,
    be honorable to your meek and lowly.
Let the mountains give exuberant witness;
    shape the hills with the contours of right living.
Please stand up for the poor,
    help the children of the needy,
    come down hard on the cruel tyrants.
Outlast the sun, outlive the moon—
    age after age after age.
Be rainfall on cut grass,
    earth-refreshing rain showers.
Let righteousness burst into blossom
    and peace abound until the moon fades to nothing.

Blessed God, Israel’s God,
    the one and only wonder-working God!
Blessed always his blazing glory!
    All earth brims with his glory.

Second Reading: Romans 15:3-13 (*The Message*)

*Reader:* That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus! So reach out and welcome one another to God’s glory. Jesus did it; now you do it! Jesus, staying true to God’s purposes, reached out in a special way to the Jewish insiders so that the old ancestral promises would come true for them. As a result, the non-Jewish outsiders have been able to experience mercy and to show appreciation to God. Just think of all the Scriptures that will come true in what we do! For instance:

Then I’ll join outsiders in a hymn-sing;
I’ll sing to your name!

And this one:

Outsiders and insiders, rejoice together!

And again:

People of all nations, celebrate God!
All colors and races, give hearty praise!

And Isaiah’s word:

There’s the root of our ancestor Jesse,
    breaking through the earth and growing tree tall,
Tall enough for everyone everywhere to see and take hope!

Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Worship Through Song**

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

O come, O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lowly exile here

Until the Son of God appear

(*Chorus*) Rejoice, Rejoice

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O Come, Thou dayspring

Come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night

And death’s dark shadows put to flight (*To Chorus*)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high

And order all things, far and nigh

To us the path of knowledge show

And cause us in her ways to go

(*To Chorus*)

O Come, Desire of nations, bind

All peoples in one heart and mind

Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease

Fill the whole world

With heaven’s peace (*To Chorus*)

***He Shall Reign Over All the Earth***

He shall reign over all the earth (4x)

There shall come forth a rod out of Jesse

And a branch shall grow from it’s roots

The spirit of God will rest upon Him

The spirit of wisdom and truth

He will not judge

With the sight of His eyes

Nor decide with the hearing of His ears

But with righteousness judge the poor

And decide with fairness for the meek

He shall gather the outcasts of Israel

The dispersed of Judah

From all the earth

He shall stand as an ensign

For the people

And His resting place shall be glorious!

**Listening Time**

**The Gospel Reading**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 (*The Message*)

*Reader:* While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called “the Baptizer,” was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.”John and his message were authorized by Isaiah’s prophecy:

Thunder in the desert!
Prepare for God’s arrival!
Make the road smooth and straight!

John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life. When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It’s your life that must change, not your skin! And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and blossoming? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire. “I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Story:** Told by Renée Englot

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Affirmation of Faith – God’s Rule of Grace**

**All: We believe in God, creator of all things, ruler of all that is and all that is to come. God is transforming the world into the place of God’s justice and mercy. We follow Jesus, who taught and healed, who died and rose, revealing God’s abundant grace. He sent disciples out into the world to heal, to proclaim the good news of your grace, and to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do. He reigns in love over all Creation, and holds all accountable to their faithfulness to God’s rule of grace. We rely upon the unfailing grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the community of the church as the Body of Christ, the unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life. Therefore, we devote ourselves to lives of daily prayer, study, service and reflection, following Jesus as our Master, for the sake of the transformation of the world by the grace of God. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Confession of Sin**

Celebrant: *(pg. 191)* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silent Confession*

Celebrant:Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**All: we have sinned against you and against others, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:Amen.**

**The Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Offertory Song: *He Came Down***

He Came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

Alleluia, forevermore!

He Came down that we may have peace

He came down that we may have peace

He came down that we may have peace

Alleluia, forevermore!

He Came down that we may have joy

He came down that we may have joy

He came down that we may have joy

Alleluia, forevermore!

**Prayer Over the Gifts**

Celebrant: *(pg. 270)* God our strength,

**All: we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 196)* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 219)* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All:** ***(Sung)*** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth of Your glory are full. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth of Your glory are full. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 197)* Holy and gracious God, accept our praise……. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit, in the holy Church, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 211)* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: *(Sung)* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 212)* “I am the bread which has come down from heaven,”
says the Lord.

**All: Give us this bread for ever.**

Celebrant: “I am the vine, you are the branches.”

**All: May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 213)* The gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Communion**

*You are welcome to receive communion or come forward for a blessing. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please fold your arms over your chest. There is de-alcoholized wine available in the centre and gluten-free wafers available upon request.*

**Lamb of God**

*(Sung)* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

**Communion Music**

***Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)***

*I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a Babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone
Be with me now, be with me now*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your holiness
For You are holy
Breath of Heaven*

*Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of Your plan
Help me be strong, help me be, help me*

***Prepare the Way of the Lord***

(*Chorus*) Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

For He comes, from up on high!

The way of the Lord is coming in Jesus

The truth of the Lord is coming in Jesus

The life of the Lord is coming in Jesus

And He comes from up on high!

(*To Chorus*)

He comes with a sword

To see who we are

The word of the Lord

Will search every part

Today if you hear his voice in your heart

He has come from up on high!

 (*Continued on next page*)

(*Chorus*) Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord (prepare the way)

For He comes, from up on high!

The works of a heart’s repentance

Will show

Make straight the highway

Where Jesus will go

O valleys rise up! O mountains bow low

For he comes from up on high!

(*To Chorus*)

The way of the Lord

Is here now within us

The truth of the Lord

Is here now within us

The Life of the Lord

Is here now within us

And He comes from up on high!

And He comes from up on high!

Prepare (prepare the way)

The way of the Lord

**Prayer After Communion**

Celebrant: *(pg. 270)* Faithful God,

**All: we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet’s call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: *(pg. 214)* Glory to God,

**All:whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord Bless you and keep you (and keep you)

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you (shine on you)

The Lord lift up His countenance on you (countenance on you)

And give you peace (and give you peace)

**Congregational Announcements *(Deanna K.)***

**Closing Song: *What a Beautiful Name***

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

**The Dismissal**Celebrant: *(pg. 215)* Let us bless the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Please join us in the hall for a potluck following the service.*

**Games Night – Friday, Dec. 13**

Are you ready to play?! Please join us every 2nd Friday of the month for games in the Hall starting at 6:00PM. Come learn a new game, bring your favourite to teach others, or play a classic with new friends! Starting in December, we will also have a Puzzlers Corner for those who want to build puzzles together.

**Interested in Confirmation**

**and/or Baptism?**

**There will be a service of Confirmation on February 2. If you are interested in Confirmation or Baptism, please speak with Rev. Myron or contact the office.**

**Advent and Christmas Services**

* 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1, 10:00AM: **HOPE**
* 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 8, 10:00AM: **PEACE**
* 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15, 10:00AM: **JOY**
* 4th Sunday of Advent, December 22, 10:00AM: **LOVE**
* Christmas Eve, December 24,
ONE service at 6:00PM
* Christmas Day, December 25, 9:00AM

**Potluck Today After the Service**

We are having a potluck today following the service. Even if you did not bring a food item to share, please join us!!

**Advent 4 (Lessons and Carols)**

**Choir Rehearsals**

We will be having a choir for Lessons and Carols the 4th Sunday of Advent. If you like to sing, please plan to join us!!
Rehearsals are in the Hall on:

* Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:00-noon
* Saturday, Dec. 21, 10:00-noon
* Sunday, Dec. 22, 9:00AM in the Sanctuary. If you are part of Myron’s Advent study, come as soon as you are able.

If you are not able to make all of the rehearsals but want to sing, please talk to RJ and we will work something out.

**Opportunity for Spiritual Growth**
Spiritual growth often occurs when we are able to explore our experiences of God with another person, particularly when that person is trained in active and reflective listening. This is the main activity and goal of spiritual direction. The Studion School for Spiritual Direction is currently seeking volunteers willing to receive spiritual direction from one of our second-year students as they work to complete their practicum requirement. If this interests you, find out more by contacting the Rev. Shelly King at the Synod Office: 780-439-7344 or reception@edmonton.anglican.ca or email the Studion School directly: thestudionschool@gmail.com.



@StEdmonton

facebook.com/stpachurchedmonton

**St. Paul’s Vestry:**

 Peter Jackson, *Rector’s Warden*

Pat Stretch, *People’s Warden*

David Heritage, *Treasurer*

Margot Byer, *Vestry Member*

John Green, *Vestry Member*

Deanna Kalles, *Vestry Member*

David Parker, *Vestry Member*

Carol Rudat, *Vestry Member*

**St. Paul’s Staff:**

 *Rector:*

The Reverend Myron Bradley Penner
*Office Administrator:*

RJ Chambers

*Youth Leader:* Victoria Eeles

**For prayer requests** **email**:

office@stpauls-anglican.ca

**For urgent prayer requests call**

 the church office: (780) 455-0771

**For pastoral emergencies call:**

(587) 334-2130

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed: Fri/Sat/Sun and Stat Holidays

 **St. Paul’s Anglican Church**

 10127 145 Street, Edmonton T5N 2X6

 Phone: (780) 455-0771; Email: office@stpauls-anglican.ca

Website: www.stpauls-anglican.ca

**This Week’s Readings:**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:3-13

Matthew 3:1-12

(all readings are in the bulletin)

**This Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music/Sound: Jodi’s Team and Youth/RJ

Service Team: Parker Team

Prayers: Abigail P.; Vestry: Pat S.

Chapel Prayer: Wendell and Nora J.

Kid’s Ministry: All kids in service

**St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer:**

Jeff, Michelle, Aiden, Nathaniel, and Macreena Schurek; Angela Sutton

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Diocese of Ottawa; the Rt. Rev. John Chapman, Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Michael Bird, Assisting Bishop. St. Philip, Westlock: Peter Yeung (s. Helena), Rector. Buyé Diocese, Nyamabuye Parish: Emmanuel Habindemyi Rector. Alexander First Nation.

**Next Week’s Ministry Teams**

Music/Sound: Adele’s Team/Scott M.

Service Team: Tilburn Team

Prayers: Deanna K.; Vestry: David H.

Chapel Prayer: Kjeryn A. and Barb M.

Kid’s Ministry: Gay G. and Carol R.